

Trust in Official Statistics across Europe: Evidence from Two Waves of Eurobarometer Using Multilevel Models

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This paper uses data from Eurobarometer for the years 2007 and 2015 to investigate the determinants of trust in official statistics across 28 countries and 2 regions in Europe. Our estimation approach follows a multilevel modelling, which allows us to distinguish within country and between countries variations for explaining individual trust in official statistics. The econometric results show that trust in statistics is highly correlated with the overall individual trust in national institutions. The within country variation is mainly explained by the level of individual statistical literacy, education and occupation status. Whereas, with respect to the variation between countries, we show that neither the level of GDP nor the index of inequality are important to explain cross-country variation. Instead, the EU history membership, i.e. the “acquis communautaire”, is the main macro variable that explains the increase of trust in the official statistics across Europe